

LOUISVILLE METRO COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Public Safety Subcommittee

Monday, July 23, 2007

2:05 P.M.

Third Floor, City Hall

Present:

Chairman: CM Downard

Vice Chair: CM Green

Members: CM Welch, and CM Ward-Pugh

Absent:

CM Kramer (excused)

Special Items for Discussion: Metro Animal Control Ordinance

Chairman Downard announced the members and non-members of the committee that were present. A quorum was established.

Dr. Meloche, Director, Louisville Metro Animal Services, and Butch Schroyer D.V.M., Immediate past President of the State Association, were present to speak along with teleconferencing with Christine Zink, John Hopkins University, Veterinary Pathologist. The following was discussed:

- Early Spay/Neuter and Behavior
- Two specific Studies - Retrospective and Prospective
 - Retrospective
 - Depending on reporting from others
 - Dependent on reporting by others and their memory of circumstances are frequently incomplete
 - Must have a appropriate control group
 - Correlation does not mean causation
 - Prospective - is a planned study
 - Dogs recruited in the future
 - Proper control groups matched for age, gender, and often breed
 - Data produced only by scientists
 - Complete data sets
- Studies suggesting Increased Aggression in Intact Dogs
 - Retrospective Studies performed more than 10 years ago – Studies Suggesting Increased Aggression in Intact Dogs
 - Hopkins - No adequate controls
 - Voith - No adequate controls
 - Borschelt - No adequate controls
 - Wright - No adequate controls
 - Neilson - No adequate controls
 - Maarschalk-erweerd - No adequate controls
 - Gresham - Adequate controls
 - Because there were no control groups of unaltered dogs, it is not known what percentage of dogs would have improved with maturity without intervention.
 - Used old definition of aggression
 - None were performed by behaviorist
- Studies Suggesting Increased Aggression in Neutered/Spayed Dogs
 - Retrospective Studies performed since 1990 - 2004 – Studies Suggesting Increased Aggression in Neutered/Spayed Dogs
 - O'Farrell
 - CCI
 - Salmeri
 - Flannigan
 - Reisner

- Bamberger
 - Kim
 - Hsu
 - Spain
 - Canine behaviorists were involved in the study and had proper controls
- Prevention of Dog Aggression
 - Human Factor - Education and Canine Factor - Obedience Training
- Health effects of Prepubertal Neutering and Spaying
- New Understanding of aggression, early indicators of aggression include excitability, aroused anxiety, reactivity
- Aggression is identified earlier and sometimes is due to an illness
- Some dogs have certain instincts breed into them
- Dog Bite prevention
- Spaying or Neutering does not make your dog less aggressive
- Education on dog behavior
- Concerns regarding reporting
- Vaccination requirements and needs
 - Only rabies is required and the other vaccines are for your dog's health
- Dangerous Dog - not under the control of his owner, improperly trained, not emotionally stable
- A dog's breed should not decide if a dog is dangerous
- Unaltered Dogs versus Altered Dogs in aggressive behavior
- Different Dogs perceive things differently
- Young Children are at the most at risk - because of the size and the way they approach the animals
- Reduce dog attacks
 - separate dogs from all the action
 - Training
 - Education
- Managing pet population
 - Don't adopt out unless spayed or neutered
- Adoption by human societies
- How do you know if spayed
 - Next to impossible on females unless exploratory surgeries.

Males are some easier but not always due to other medical problems.
Medical records are the only for sure way
- Microchips and good record keeping
- Stray Dogs – Metro Animal Services
 - Receive around 15, 000 a year
 - Last year around 9,000 were euthanized

The following was also discussed:

- Ways to make an aggressive dog less aggressive
- Is there any programs that help prevent dogs attacks by all size dogs not just big, because small dogs can cause problems also
- May take a few years to get the programs together regarding the Dog Ordinance.
- Medical records being released that was not medically oriented
- Roaming dogs
- Concerns with the dog ordinance
 - Vagueness in the ordinance regarding exemptions
 - Much better ordinance than in the past
 - Is a very complex issue
- Breed Specific legislation
- Enhancing licensing in the Community
- Vets that give rabies shots, give that information to Animal Services
- Vets can give the option to license the animals in the clinics, and that way it will be kept out of the medical records
- Reminders that you are due to get your animals licensed
- Aggression does not arrive out of instinct - it is genetic make up and surroundings

- Tethering does not create aggressive dogs
- There is more Pit Bulls in the U.S. than any other breed of dog; 3:20 PM
- Make the reporting easier
- Northwest does not accept a pit bull or pit bull mix

AGENDA

[O-121-05-07 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 91.072 OF THE LOUISVILLE/JEFFERSON COUNTY METRO GOVERNMENT CODE OF ORDINANCES \("CODE"\) PERTAINING TO THE QUARANTINE OF ANIMALS.](#)

Status: In Committee - Tabled
Committee: Public Safety
Primary Sponsor: Glen Stuckel

Discussion: This item remained **Tabled**.

PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE AGENDA - VIEW ONLY

Motion to Adjourn was made by Tina Ward-Pugh and seconded by Judy Green.

Without objection the meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

KQG